

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 917

In Memory  
of  
Mario E. Ramirez

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Dr. Mario E. Ramirez, who died May 22, 2017, at the age of 91; and

**WHEREAS**, An esteemed physician and much-treasured citizen, Dr. Mario Ramirez brought formal health care to Starr County and worked throughout his life to bring quality health care to medically underserved residents of the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, Mario Ramirez attended high school in Roma, Texas; he studied for two years at The University of Texas at Austin, and in 1944, he accepted early enrollment to the University of Tennessee School of Medicine; he returned to Roma as a young physician in 1950 and established the community's first family practice center; he suspended his medical practice from 1955 to 1957 to serve in the United States Air Force; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Ramirez opened Roma's first hospital in 1958; named after his grandfather, the Manuel Ramirez Memorial Clinic and Hospital provided local care to patients who had previously traveled 55 miles or more for medical services; and

**WHEREAS**, From 1969 until 1978, Dr. Ramirez served as Starr County Judge; during his tenure, he played an instrumental role in establishing the Starr County Memorial Hospital and creating a new hospital taxation district to support its operation; the modern facility opened on February 15, 1975, in Rio Grande City, the same day the Ramirez Hospital closed its doors in neighboring Roma; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1989, Governor Bill Clements appointed Dr. Ramirez to a term on The University of Texas System Board of Regents, where he served until 1995; he also served as vice president of South Texas Programs at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he established the Med-Ed Program; the educational program has encouraged over 2,000 students in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laredo to pursue health science careers; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Ramirez served in leadership positions for numerous civic organizations, and he held key positions in professional associations at the local, state, and national levels; he received numerous accolades over the years, and he was honored for his many contributions to society by four United States presidents; and

**WHEREAS**, Mario Ramirez shared 62 years of marriage with the late Sarah A. Ramirez, and they were blessed with five children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he was beloved

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by many, and his exceptional accomplishments in the Rio Grande Valley will continue to benefit area residents for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Dr. Mario E. Ramirez; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mario Ramirez.

Zaffirini, Hinojosa, Lucio

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2017, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate